

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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ALSO FOR NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA REGIONAL REPROCESSING PROJECT

1. MISOFFS MET JUNE 24 WITH MR. VINAY MECKONI (INDIAN), WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO HEAD AGENCY'S REGIONAL REPROCESSING PROJECT, FOR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR CONDUCTING NECESSARY STUDIES LEADING TO COMPLETION OF REPORT FOR SUBJECT PROJECT. MECKONI HAS BEEN HIRED UNDER SPECIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT AT DIRECTOR-LEVEL AND ASSIGNED TO OFFICE OF DDG FOR TECHNICAL OPERATIONS, SINCE WORK INVOLVES STAFF MEMBERS FROM DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS AS WELL AS FROM DIVISION OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. (PROLONGED ABSENCE OF FORMER DDG CHERNILIN AND CURRENT ABSENCE OF NEWLY APPOINTED DDG ZHELUDOV HAS MADE MECKONI'S TASK DIFFICULT, BUT CERTAIN PROGRESS CAN BE REPORTED).

2. MECKONI STATES THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1976 FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBER STATES FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT, AND PUBLICATION OF FINAL VERSION BY MARCH 1977, JUST PRIOR TO 1977 CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. MECKONI'S MOST

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IMMEDIATE NEED IS FOR SERVICES OF COST-FREE EXPERT(S)

TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING CERTAIN MODELS FOR COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AS SUPPLEMENT TO WORK BEING STARTED NEXT WEEK BY ARTHA JEAN SNYDER FROM ERDA. (THERE IS NO RPT NO PROVISION IN 1975 BUDGET FOR CONSULTANTS FOR THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH MEANS THAT MECKONI MUST TRY TO OBTAIN COST-FREE EXPERTS OR DEPEND ON "SAVINGS" FROM OTHER PROGRAMS TO ENGAGE NEEDED EXPERTS FOR VARIOUS PHASES OF STUDY).

3. MISOFFS INDICATED THAT U.S. ATTACHES HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS PROJECT AND NOTED THAT CHANCES WERE HIGH THAT U.S. COULD PROVIDE COST-FREE EXPERTS TO UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC TASKS RELATED TO IT AS REQUIRED. MECKONI WAS GRATEFUL AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITHIN 2-3 WEEKS RE NEED FOR POSSIBLE EXPERT OR EXPERTS DURING COMING 3 MONTHS OR SO. HE WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS AS TO EACH TASK INVOLVED AND TYPES OF EXPERT OR EXPERTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEM.

4. MECKONI SAID THAT DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR CARRYING OUT STUDIES FOR PROJECT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN FINALIZED, BUT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE FINISHED IN ABOUT 2 WEEKS AND HE PROMISED TO SEND US COPY. MECKONI COVENUES WEEKLY MEETINGS OF STAFF MEMBERS FROM BOTH DIVISIONS TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE AND PLANS FOR SPECIFIC TASKS TO BE PERFORMED IN FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: MISSION HAS HAD IMPRESSION THAT THIS PROJECT WAS TENDING TO DRIFT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS WITHOUT MUCH COORDINATION OR LEADERSHIP, AND WE ARE STILL NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE CASE, ALTHOUGH WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH MECKONI'S SINCERITY AND INTEREST SHOWN IN THE PROJECT, AND WE WERE GLAD TO LEARN THAT HE EXERCISES SOME SORT OF COORDINATION AMONG THE STAFF INVOLVED IN CARRYING IT OUT. HE CLEARLY HAS BEEN IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION FROM MANAGEMENT STANDPOINT, HAVING ARRIVED JUST ABOUT TIME FORMER DDG CHERNILIN LEFT, AND HAVING TO FIND HIMSELF SUDDENLY THRUST IN LONELY POSITION WITHOUT GUIDANCE BETWEEN TWO DIVISIONS, DIRECTORS OF WHICH ARE KNOWN TO BE FREQUENTLY

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FEUDING, AND ATTEMPTING WITH PRACTICALLY NO RPT NO AGENCY EXPERIENCE TO GET THIS PROGRAM UNDERWAY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MUST GIVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR HAVING GOTTEN AS FAR AS HE HAS. OUR FEELING, HOWEVER, IS THAT HE MIGHT NEED SHOT IN THE ARM FROM TIME TO TIME, AND TOWARD THIS END, WE PLAN TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM AND KEEP TRACK OF HOW THINGS ARE GOING. WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO BE ABLE

TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, SUCH
AS COST-FREE EXPERTS, WHEN NEEDED, AND WE TRUST DEPT/ERDA
WILL TREAT SUCH REQUESTS SYMPATHETICALLY. MISSION WILL
REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS THIS SUBJECT AS THEY COME
UP. END COMMENT. LEAHY

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